

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 H-02 CIEP-02 NSC-10 SS-15

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R 021450 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4123

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5150

PASS INFO AGRICULTURE

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJ: SENATOR HUMPHREY TELEGRAM ON FOOD SITUATION IN
INDIA

1. I HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SENATOR
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY:

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

I UNDERSTAND THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN INDIA
HAVE REQUESTED SIZABLE AMOUNTS OF ADDITIONAL FOOD
FOR STARVING INDIANS YET HAVE RECEIVED NO FORMAL
RESPONSE FROM THE U. S. GOVERNMENT.

PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY AS TO CURRENT FOOD
SHORTAGE SITUATION IN INDIA AND WHAT SPECIFIC
ACTION IF ANY YOU ARE NOW PURSUING TO RELIEVE
THAT SITUATION. I AM ALSO SENDING A SIMILAR
COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL
ECO POLICY SINCERELY

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, UNITED STATES SENATE

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2. I HAVE SENT THE FOLLOWING REPLY:

DEAR HUBERT: I HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR OFFICE CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FOOD SUPPLIES FOR AMERICAN VOLUNTARY AGENCIES OPERATING IN INDIA ABOUT WHICH YOU WIRED ME.

THE SITUATION HERE IS AS FOLLOWS. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS NOT ASKED US FOR ANYTHING BEYOND THE SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS IN FOOD WHICH WE ARE BUDGETED TO PROVIDE THIS YEAR. IT IS NOT THE VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA THAT THERE IS ANY FOOD CRISIS AT THIS MOMENT. I BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE AFFRONTED BY THE TERM QTE STARVING INDIANS UNQTE. TODAY'S PRESS CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF A MAY DAY SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER GANDHI.

QTE: PM DENIES REPORTS OF IMPORTS

KANPUR, MAY 1. THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS. INDIRA GANDHI, TODAY DESCRIBED AS FALSE AND MISLEADING PRESS REPORTS THAT INDIA WOULD IMPORT SEVEN MILLION TONNES OF FOODGRAINS.

MRS. GANDHI TOLD A MAY DAY RALLY HERE THAT SUCH REPORTS WERE WRONG AND HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY SPREAD. THERE WAS NO NEED FOR IMPORTING SUCH A BIG QUANTITY OF FOODGRAINS IN VIEW OF GOOD CROP PROSPECTS. SUCH REPORTS WERE HARMFUL TO THE COUNTRY, SHE ADDED.

IF GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO IMPORT ANY FOODGRAINS IT WOULD BE A MUCH SMALLER QUANTITY, SHE ADDED. -- PTI (PRESS TRUST OF INDIA) UNQTE
IF AND WHEN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ASKS FOR FURTHER HELP, I WILL BE IN A DIFFERENT SITUATION. IN THE MEANTIME I TRUST THE DEPARTMENT CAN FILL YOU IN ON DETAILS, AND THAT YOU WILL NOT HESITATE TO CABLE ME IF YOU WANT MORE FROM HERE.

BEST.

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